THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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The New Indian Express
Wishes its readers a

Our offices and press will remain closed today and there will be no issue of the paper on Saturday

WORLD LOOKS AT PHASING OUT CLIMATE CULPRIT COAL

Several nations, for the first time, have pledged to phase out use of the fossil fuel or speed up existing plans to do so

END OF COAL IS IN SIGHT, SAYS UK SECRETARY

A few nations have announced to end investments in new coal-fired power plants. UK business secretary Kwasi Kwarteng on Wednesday said the commitments made on the sidelines of the UN climate summit in Glasgow, meant the 'end of coal is in sight'. But critics noted that several major economies have not set a date for ending their dependence on the fuel

BIGGER ECONOMIES YET TO SET DATES

- Major economies such as the US, China, India and Japan have set no formal dates for ending coal use
- Poland, the second-biggest coal user in Europe after Germany, is set to phase it out as early as 2030
- Ukraine is bringing forward its coal deadline, from 2050 to 2035

11.6%

INDIA'S SHARE OF GLOBAL COAL CONSUMPTION IN 2020

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India must boost military might, modes of war: PM

Stresses on developing border infra for better troop deployment

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

ASSERTING that modern border infrastructure will enhance the country's military capabilities, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said that in a departure from earlier times, connectivity has been established in border and coastal areas, from Ladakh to Arunachal Pradesh and from Jaisalmer to Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Addressing soldiers on the occasion of Diwali at Nowshera sector in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, Modi lauded the role played by the Army in the 2016 surgical strikes on terror launchpads across the Line of Control (LoC), and asserted that even though innumerable attempts were made after the strikes to disturb peace in the region, terrorism was given a befitting reply every time. India had conducted surgical strikes on September 29, 2016, across the LoC as a response to a terrorist attack on an Army base in the Uri sector of Jammu and Kashmir.

The PM also asserted that India must enhance its military capabilities in line with the changing world and modes of war, and noted that modern border infrastructure has been built to augment connectivity and troop deployment.

"Today, connectivity in border and coastal areas from Ladakh to Arunachal Pradesh, from Jaisalmer to Andaman Nicobar (Islands) has been established," the Prime Minister said.

CONTINUED ON: P9

Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacts with Indian Army soldiers during his visit to Nowshera, to celebrate Deepavali with them, on Thursday | PTI

'I WAS WAITING FOR LAST SOLDIER TO RETURN'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that the 2016 surgical strike signified great professionalism and capability of the Indian army And that he was constantly on phone to ensure the last soldier returned home safely. "I was constantly on the phone at the time of the surgical strike. I wanted to ensure that each soldier, who was part of the strike, should return safely," he said. He laid a wreath at the war memorial as a tribute to the soldiers who have laid down their lives for the country in J&K.

Kindergartens too will open from Monday

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

AFTER opening up primary schools for offline classes, the State Government is now preparing to open kindergartens (LKG and UKG) which are attached to schools in those taluks where the Covid-19 positivity rate is less than 2 per cent. They will be allowed to function for half a day from November 8.

This is in continuity with offline classes opening for all classes for the full day from November 2, when the government allowed Classes 1 to 5 to function for the full day. Anganwadi centres too have been permitted to be opened from November 8.

Pre-primary schools have been asked to prepare a tentative timetable for classes from Monday to Friday between 9:30 and 3:30 pm, which can be adjusted based on local circumstances. The Department of Public Instruction on Thursday issued a set of guidelines for opening of kindergartens which include the need for written parental consent before sending one's child for offline class.

PROTOCOLS TO BE FOLLOWED

If a student tests positive, the school should be closed and sanitised

Health official's advice to be sought on reopening school

Visitors and third parties not to enter school premises

As for UKG and LKG classes, teachers and parents have been asked to exercise caution, sanitise classrooms with sodium hypochlorite mix before students arrive for offline classes. The children are expected to be checked at the entrance, and in case they show symptoms, they are to be isolated and the parents consulted before the child is sent home. Children whose family member is tested positive should refrain from coming to school. CONTINUED ON: P2

No more anonymous plaints on govt staff

BANSY KALAPPA @ Bengaluru

IN a move that has activists seeing red, the State Government has decided not to entertain any anonymous complaints against government officials written on postcards, inland letters or other means of communication.

Chief Secretary P Ravi Kumar told *TNIE* that the circular was passed recently. Henceforth, all department heads and staff have been told not to take anonymous letters into consideration and only those with valid names and addresses will be considered.

Activists explained that the government is swamped with hundreds of anonymous letters every year with information about different issues, mostly dealing with corruption. People do so anonymously because the information is important, and if the person reveals his identity and other details, he may risk persecution. In a country where RTI activists and journalists have paid with their lives, where is the safety for an underprivileged informant who has important information to offer, they questioned.

T R Raghunandan, who has fought corruption through the 'Ipaidabribe' campaign, angrily asked, "Where is the accountability? I am not surprised by this at all. This is one more nail in the coffin."

"Successive dispensations have set records in corruption and Karnataka has been rated among the most corrupt states in the country over many years. We have cases of RTI activists being intimidated and whistleblowers being punished. Appeals under the RTI Act are not entertained and there is a pendency of 20,000-30,000 appeals," he added.

EXPRESS READ

UK approves world's 1st pill to treat Covid

LONDON: Britain's health regulators on Thursday approved the world's first pill to treat cases of symptomatic Covid-19, dubbed a "gamechanger" for those vulnerable to the virus. PTI

Fix issues in teacher manual, NCERT told

NEW DELHI: Asserting that NCERT's gender-neutral teacher training manual will deny equal rights to children of diverse biological needs, the NNCPCR sought rectification of "anomalies" in it. P9

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